

**THE CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION**

# **ONSTAGE** **IN NEW JERSEY**

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**SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK**  
**DARK COWGIRLS & PRAIRIE QUEENS**  
**FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN CULTURE**  
**GOSPEL ACCORDING TO NEWARK**  
**OPERA EBONY**  
**TAKE 6**  
**OSSIE DAVIS & RUBY DEE**

**MARCH 23 - MAY 25**  
**1990**

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# We grow the arts in New Jersey.



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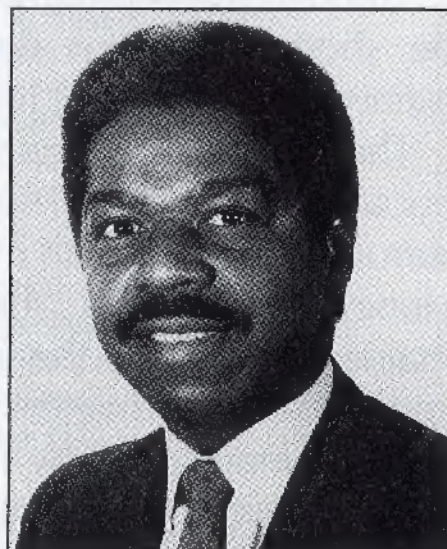
NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS  
Department of State



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## A Note From The President

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation presented the first OnStage In New Jersey performance series in 1987 as a natural outgrowth of its primary mission—to provide greater access to African-American arts and culture through the presentation of arts events. Subsequently, OnStage subscribers have enjoyed the benefits of attending affordably priced performances at convenient locations.



Each year since its inception, interest in the program has increased among performers and our subscriber base. Your overwhelming response to the 1990 series (over 240 subscriptions) will be the impetus for expansion of the OnStage In New Jersey performance series. Your ongoing support and feedback will ensure that we continue to bring the type of culturally enriching programs you want and can be proud of.

We are pleased with the excitement this series has generated and we are sure that you will enjoy each of the performances being presented this season.

Thank you and enjoy!

*Philip Thomas*

Philip Thomas

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# ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY

This season's performances are designed to fascinate, thrill and enthrall audiences of all ages, with a unique blend of new and established artists, performing works inspired by the African-American experience.

Through this series, the works of African-American artists will be showcased like never before, in a multidisciplinary extravaganza of dance, music, theatre, and the literary arts.

The Woodson Foundation embraces the dawning of a new decade by reaching out to audiences in New Jersey and surrounding areas, with the riveting social commentary of *Sweet Honey In The Rock*, the historic tale of "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens," by the Carpetbag Theatre, the explosive dance and vocal performances in the Festival of African Culture, a cappella innovations by Take 6, the inspiring gospel of Newark-based singers, classical music by Opera Ebony and the unifying spirit of actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

## *Schedule of Performances*

Artist	Date	Time	Location
Sweet Honey In The Rock	March 23	8pm	State Theatre
Sweet Honey In The Rock*	March 24	7pm	Essex County College
Sweet Honey In The Rock*	March 25	4pm	Montclair State College
Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens*	April 6	8pm	Studio Theatre of NSH
Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens*	April 7	3 & 8pm	Studio Theatre of NSH
Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens*	April 8	3 & 7pm	Studio Theatre of NSH
Festival of African Culture	April 28	4pm	Essex County College
Gospel According to Newark	April 29	4pm	Essex County College
Opera Ebony	May 6	4pm	The Newark Museum
Take 6*	May 22	7pm	Rosa Parks Fine Arts HS
Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee	May 24	7pm	The Newark Library
Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee	May 25	8pm	Walt Whitman Center

### **\*SOLD OUT**

Single tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at (201) 893-5112.

Group sales can be arranged by calling (201) 242-0500.



## ONSTAGE VENUES

### *New, and Affordably close!*

What's news in venues? Let OnStage In New Jersey introduce you to some of the State's most impressive theatres—many of which are brand new or recently renovated.

As you will see, the OnStage In New Jersey Performance Series reaches out to you no matter where you are in New Jersey, with convenient locations that are accessible by public transportation.

That is why New Jersey entertainment lovers can say "New Jersey is *the* place to see the best!"

Newark Symphony Hall's **Studio Theatre** is located in the heart of downtown Newark, New Jersey. This newly renovated cultural complex, recipient of a \$4.5 million Capital Improvement Project, will be the site for "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens."

**Billy Johnson Auditorium**, of The Newark Museum, held its ribbon-cutting ceremonies in November 1989, to celebrate a renovation project that took some four years and \$20 million to complete. It is used for lectures, films and educational programs and will be the location for OnStage's Opera Ebony.

Essex County College's **Mary B. Burch Theatre**, complete with an extensive state-of-the art light and sound system, will be the setting for the OnStage presentations of the Festival of African Culture, Gospel According to Newark and Sweet Honey In The Rock. In addition, Sweet Honey in The Rock will be performing at the **State Theatre**, a jewel of a concert hall, in New Brunswick, and **Memorial Auditorium** of Montclair State College, the State designated center for the fine and performing arts.

The Newark Library's **Centennial Hall**, fully restored to its turn-of-the-century elegance, and Camden's Walt Whitman Center will host performances by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. **Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School** in Paterson—soon to celebrate it's first graduating class this spring—welcomes Take 6.

## PERFORMANCE SITES

### **State Theatre**

19 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
(201) 246-7469

### **Mary B. Burch Theatre for the Performing Arts**

Essex County College  
303 University Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 877-4423

### **Memorial Auditorium**

Montclair State College  
Valley Road & Normal Avenue  
Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043  
(201) 893-5112

### **Studio Theatre**

Newark Symphony Hall  
1020 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 643-8009

### **Billy Johnson Auditorium**

The Newark Museum  
49 Washington Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 596-6550

### **Fine Arts Theatre**

Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School  
413 12th Avenue  
Paterson, New Jersey 07514  
(201) 881-6361

### **Centennial Hall**

Newark Public Library  
5 Washington Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 733-7793

### **Whitman Auditorium**

Walt Whitman Center  
Second and Cooper Street  
Camden, New Jersey 08102  
(609) 757-7276

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# ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY

## SPONSORS

Coors Brewing Company  
Essex County College  
Montclair YWCA  
Montclair State College  
Newark Public Library  
The Newark Museum  
Newark Symphony Hall  
Planned Parenthood League of Middlesex County  
Sealand Services, Inc.

The OnStage In New Jersey performance series is made possible in part by major grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts/Expansion Arts Program.

## STAFF

Philip Thomas	Executive Producer
Karen Glover	Marketing Coordinator
Don Ehman	Technical Director
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Chase Jackson	House Manager
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	for Sweet Honey In The Rock
William Ware	Transportation Services
	for Sweet Honey In The Rock

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The performances of "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens" are presented in cooperation with Newark's American Theater Festival produced by Newark Symphony Hall.

The Essex County College performances of Sweet Honey In The Rock, the Festival of African Culture, and the Gospel According To Newark are presented in cooperation with the Mary B. Burch Theater for the Performing Arts.

The State Theatre and Montclair State College performances of Sweet Honey In The Rock are presented in cooperation with the Planned Parenthood League of Middlesex County and the Montclair YWCA.

Hotel accommodations provided by the Quality Inn of Newark.

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# CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION

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THE PROGRAMS OF THE CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION  
ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF  
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*Thank You*

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## **CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION**

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is a multi-disciplinary arts institution that organizes and produces the OnStage In New Jersey performance series, Black Culture On Tour In America, and the Artists-In-The-Schools Program.

The mission of the Woodson Foundation is to research, preserve, perpetuate and celebrate the creative expressions, the cultural heritage, and the historic achievements of African-Americans through performances, exhibits and educational activities.

Sponsoring organizations utilize the services of the Woodson Foundation frequently when designing Black women's programs, arts-in-education programs, performance series, and festivals.

### **BLACK CULTURE ON TOUR IN AMERICA**

The Black Culture On Tour In America program represents theater, dance, music, and literary artists of high artistic quality, and tours these performing artists, in schools, colleges, museums, libraries and cultural centers throughout the United States and Canada. The program features world-class performing artists and some of America's most provocative personalities who celebrate the roots of African-American culture while continuing to explore new modes of artistic expression.

### **THE ARTISTS-IN-THE-SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

The Artists-In-The-Schools program is designed to instill in young people an early appreciation for the performing arts while enriching their understanding of African-American culture. The Artists-In-The-Schools program includes the Paul Robeson Education Project, the Langston Hughes Education Project, the Jazz Residency Program, and the Discover Africa Education Project. Artists-In-The-Schools programs are implemented from 5 days to 60 days in a single school or a school district.

### **INFORMATION**

Please contact the Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Post Office Box 1025, Newark, New Jersey 07101, or call 201-242-0500 to receive additional information and program literature.

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**Schyleen Qualls**  
**HOST**  
**OnStage In New Jersey**

Schyleen Qualls is an actress who has been delighting audiences across the country with her one-woman show, "The Last Word!" which features the prose and poetry of celebrated African-American writers.

Ms. Qualls was a featured performer with Rev. Jesse Jackson during his 1988 presidential campaign; and represented the Rainbow Coalition in East Berlin as part of an 11 member delegation from the United States that included Apollo XIV astronaut, Dr. Edgar Mitchell.

She was the co-founder of The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and the scriptwriter of "Family Reunion-Americans at Festac" a documentary film that has been shown in 74 countries. She has toured 26 countries in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Australia and the South Pacific.

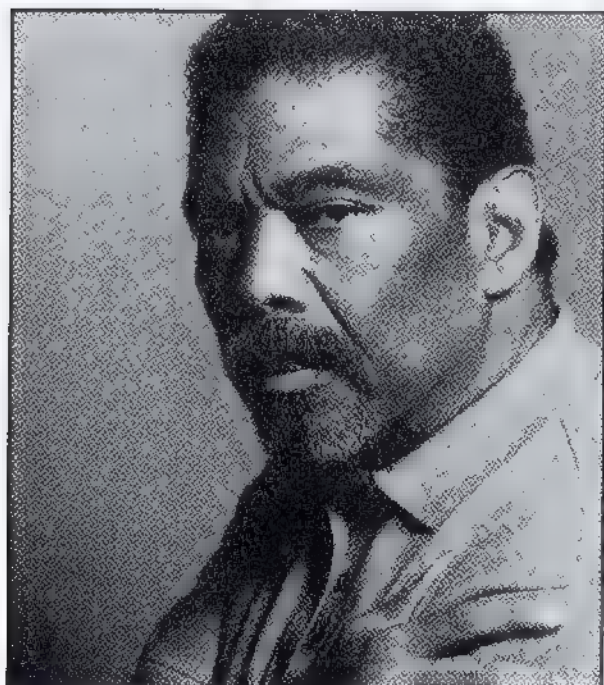
Schyleen Qualls presents her one-woman show on college campuses and at conventions for national organizations under the auspices of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation's "Black Culture On Tour in America" program.



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# Dedication to ALVIN AILEY

1931 - 1989



Alvin Ailey. His name is synonymous with any superlative that represents beauty, grace, creativity and determination.

Ailey, a master choreographer and creator of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, had a vision in 1958 during the birth of the modern day civil rights movement. Perhaps it was his dream for a more beautiful, peaceful existence among humankind that drove his thoughts to dance—a universal language.

"Dance is a natural outpouring of what you are as a person, your culture, background, your family, your heritage," Ailey once said.

Ailey merged the beauty of African and American dance as he created dance compositions that would leave his audiences and peers awestruck.

His travels took him to some 45 countries where his troupe has been seen by millions.

Ailey lived long enough to see dancers nurtured and inspired by him, blossom and become involved in every aspect of dance and the arts. That was part of Ailey's dream which has become his legacy.

Judith Jamison, Joyce Trisler, Clive Thompson and Sylvia Waters, all former Ailey dancers, went on to lead dance companies of their own.

Here in New Jersey, Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre is lead by Alfred Gallman who studied under Ailey.

We dedicate our 1990 season to Alvin Ailey for his contributions to artistic expression through dance and music. Masterful compositions by such gifted composers as Duke Ellington, Keith Jarrett, Hugh Masekela, and the many unknown creators of traditional spirituals, are an integral part of the magic Ailey created through his choreographed works.

Though we have lost a true pioneer of the arts, our hearts will continue to be filled by the legacy he left behind, through the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

We will pay special tribute to Alvin Ailey during our Festival of African Culture.

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# *Sweet Honey In The Rock*

**\*March 23, 8 PM**

State Theatre

**March 24, 7 PM**

Essex County  
College

**March 25, 4 PM**

Montclair State  
College



Imagine a warm brown, silky-smooth coating gliding slowly yet unceasingly over a rugged, time-worn stone, the result would be transforming.

Enter Sweet Honey In The Rock.

Sweet Honey In The Rock, a Washington, D.C.-based quintet of black women singers, take their audiences through the historic struggle of being African-American, sexual and political oppressions, and celebrations of black heroes and heroines.

The original group, founded in 1973 by Bernice Johnson Reagon, was part of the D.C. Black Repertory Theater Company.

Their songs are performed a cappella with occasional percussion. Each singer is an electrifying soloist who, when combined, produces a strong blend of sounds and rhythms.

The group has performed throughout the United States, Japan, Africa, Scotland and in South America.

*\*Program to benefit Planned Parenthood of Middlesex County.*

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# Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens

**\*April 6, 8 PM — April 7, 3 & 8 PM — \*April 8, 3 & 7 PM**

Studio Theatre of The Newark Symphony Hall



Mary single-handedly fought off starving wolves during a blizzard once; Biddy Mason walked to California from Texas behind her master's wagon, and later won her freedom and built a nursing home.

These are two of several stories told in *Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens*, performed by members of The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Written by artistic director, Linda Parris-Bailey, this theatrical production highlights the struggles and personal victories of pioneer Black women of the Old American West from 1830 to 1890.

The Carpetbag Theatre, founded in 1970, is a unity-based, non-profit professional company dedicated to the production of new works by minority artists.

*\*Programs presented in cooperation with Newark Symphony Hall's "The Best of American Theater" festival.*

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# *Festival of A*

April 2

Essex Cou

This festival was created to celebrate the African influence in African-American culture. Africa holds the key to many of today's popular fashion and entertainment trends. Come experience the impact of African dance and music during an evening of rousing performances.

Delight in a full-scale African market that features the latest in crafts, jewelry, textiles, food and fashion.

To create a total mood, we encourage you to dress in traditional African attire. Don't miss this event, there's fun planned for the entire family!



## **DINIZULU AND HIS AFRICAN DANCERS, DRUMMERS AND SINGERS**

You won't want to miss this invigorating program of African dances, songs, music and narrative that is educational, interesting and entertaining.



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# *African Culture*

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8, 4 PM

nty College



## **THE THOKOZA SINGERS**

Thokoza means happiness in Zulu and aptly describes the mood of audiences that have experienced this group's delivery of igom'ebusuku (Zulu: 'night music').



## **THE SPIRIT ENSEMBLE**

The Spirit Ensemble's flexibility is found not only in their performance capabilities—they appear in clubs, fully staged concerts, dance parties, and educational conferences—but also in their many musical styles.

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# *Gospel According To Newark*

April 29, 4 PM

Essex County College



Newark, New Jersey has long been recognized as a bedrock of gospel music. For many individuals and choirs, gospel has served as a springboard to world-wide notoriety, through Broadway plays, recording contracts and international tours.

The Gospel According To Newark concert will showcase the wealth of our area's best talent including the exciting Stephens Singers, St. Paul Inspirational Choir, Donald Malloy, and many others. Be prepared for a hand-clapping, foot-stomping, good time. Bring your stepping shoes!

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# Opera Ebony

May 6, 4 PM

The Newark Museum



The classics come alive with Opera Ebony. Everything from Mozart to Verdi is performed by this company of gifted classical composers, musicians, and opera singers.

Since its inception in November 1973, Opera Ebony has welcomed talent representing the multi-cultural fabric of America. As a result, Opera Ebony continues to attract performers of virtually every ethnic group, including Asians, African-Americans and Hispanics.

To date, the company has presented "Aida," "Carmen," "Madam Butterfly," "The Marriage of Figaro," "Faust," "Il Trovatore," and many more.

The Newark Museum concert will feature arias from well-known operas, classic African-American spirituals, and selections from "Porgy and Bess."

## **ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY GALA RECEPTION**

Join the Woodson Foundation and friends at a post-performance Gala Reception on Sunday, May 6, 1990 following the Opera Ebony concert to celebrate the 1990 season of the OnStage In New Jersey performance series.

Patron tickets are available at \$50 each, which covers admission to the concert and post-performance Gala Reception. For reservations please call the Woodson Foundation at (201) 242-0500.

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# Take 6

May 22, 7 PM

Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School



In concert, Grammy award-winning sextet Take 6 emits the sounds of a full jazz band with their vocal interpretations of mellow bass, screaming horn sections and a complete percussion bottom.

The Take 6 music repertoire consists of standard Hymns and Spirituals, contemporary christian favorites, and original compositions by members of the group. All of this music is delivered with a blend of vocal jazz, traditional Black quartet gospel and just a pinch of street-corner doo-wop.

Take 6 was formed in 1980 by four freshmen students at Oakwood College, a small Christian school in northern Alabama. Time and several personnel changes have brought the group to its current roster, which includes (l-r) Alvin "Vinnie" Chea, Claude V. McKnight III, Mervyn Warren, Cedric Dent, Mark Kibble and David Thomas.

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# *Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee*

**May 24, 7 PM**

The Newark Library

**May 25, 8 PM**

Walt Whitman Center



One ordinarily doesn't say Ossie Davis without saying Ruby Dee within the same affectionate breath.

This husband and wife team, lauded for their warm, sensitive, and humorous performances of theater and literary classics, epitomize the phrase "unity makes strength."

Together they have worked in American theater, film, television and radio.

Davis studied under Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke, a black Rhodes Scholar and Sterling A. Brown, a distinguished poet, as a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his numerous performances Davis has directed several well-known motion pictures including "Cotton Comes to Harlem," and "Black Girl."

For Ruby Dee, television has been her biggest success, having appeared in films and series, including the history-making "Roots: The Next Generations."

In 1989, both appeared in filmmaker Spike Lee's movie "Do The Right Thing."

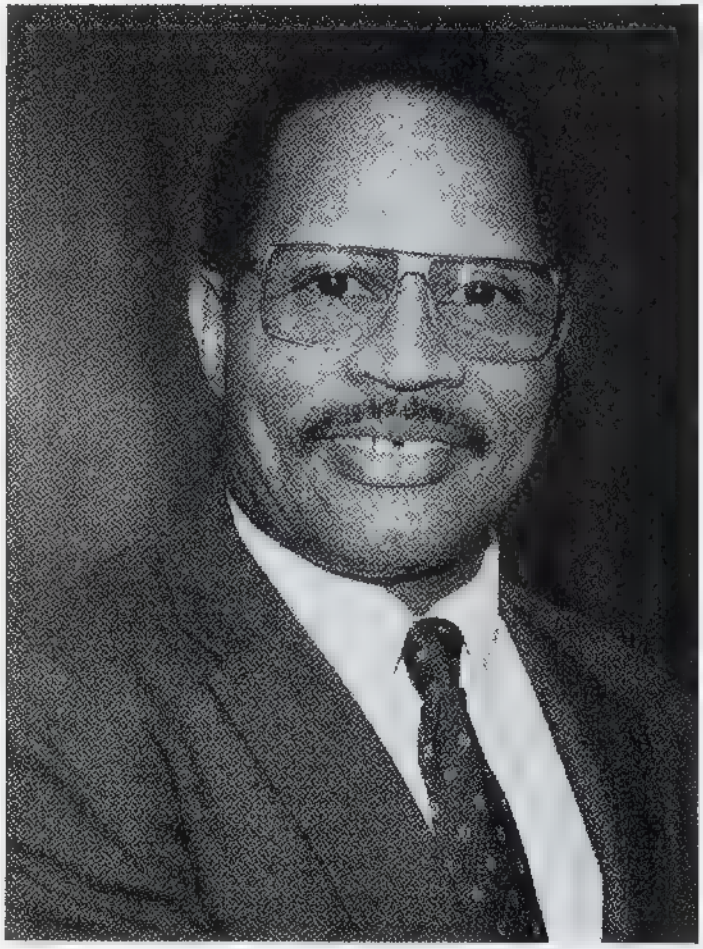
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**NEWARK  
MAYOR SHARPE JAMES**

*Salutes*

**THE WOODSON  
FOUNDATION**

**Committed to improving  
the quality of life and  
education through cultural  
enrichment, The Woodson  
Foundation is truly an asset  
to the City of Newark!**



**Sharpe James, Mayor**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

*and*

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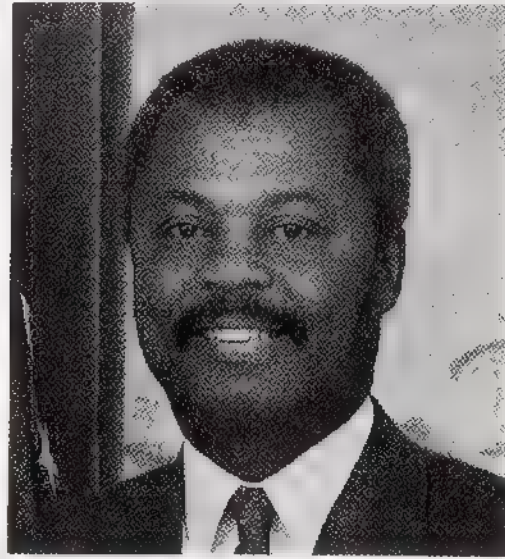
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**Donald M. Payne  
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Congratulations to the  
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for providing a rewarding  
cultural and historical experience.

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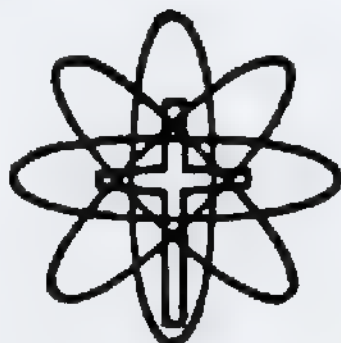
**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON AN OUTSTANDING SERIES**

*Mary (Richie) McElrath*

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
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Henry "Hank" Martinez  
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**to the**

**Carter G. Woodson Foundation**

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*Congratulations  
To The  
Carter G. Woodson Foundation  
On Stage In New Jersey  
Performance Series*

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# BLACK CULTURE *On Tour* IN AMERICA

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**POETS, WRITERS, SPEAKERS** – Amiri Baraka • Mwatabu Okantah  
Sonia Sanchez • Gil Noble • Paul Robeson, Jr. • Yolanda King • Dr. LaFrancis  
Rodgers-Rose • Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu •

**DANCE** – Philadanco • The Ishangi Dancers • The Okra Dance Company  
Dinizulu's African Dancers, Drummers and Singers

**THEATER** – Vinie Burrows • Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee • "Yes God Is Real"  
"Do Lord Remember Me"

**SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS** – Scott Joplin and Ragtime America • Sea Island  
Montage • "Paul We Hardly Knew Ye: Robeson Remembered" • "Yeh! Cric  
Yeh! Crac: Songs and Stories From Africa and Beyond"

**FILM** – St. Clair Bourne

**MUSIC – JAZZ** – Abbey Lincoln Moseka and Group • Steve Colson and  
Group • Carrie Smith and Group • **CHORAL** – Newark Boys Chorus • The  
North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club • **GOSPEL** – The Exciting Stephens  
Singers • The Gospel Chariots • Holy Righteous Singers • Royal Travelers  
of Georgia • Sister Sadie And The Famous Biblettes

## **BOOKING INFORMATION**

Interested sponsors should contact Black Culture On Tour In  
America, Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Post Office Box 1025,  
Newark, New Jersey 07101, or for immediate information on  
company availability, performance fees, press materials and  
technical requirements call **201-242-0500**.

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# ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY

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*Back by  
Popular Demand!*



## SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

Plus, don't miss Opera Ebony, Dee Davis & Ruby Dee, the Carper Bag Theatre Company's "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens," Spirit Ensemble, the Thokozani Singers, Dinizulu and HIS African Dancers, Drummers & Singers, "Ake 6," and Newark's gospel best in the Onstage in New Jersey performance series, March 23 - May 25, 1990.

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation  
POB 1025  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

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**THIS SUBSCRIPTION OFFER EXPIRES ON MARCH 15, 1990.**

**SINGLE TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED BY CALLING THE BOX OFFICE AT (201) 893-5112**

**Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

## THE CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is the proud administrator of the OnStage in New Jersey Performance Series, Black Culture On Tour In America and the Artists In The Schools Program.

The mission of the Woodson Foundation is to research, preserve, perpetuate and celebrate the creative expressions, the cultural heritage and the historic achievements of African Americans through performances, exhibits and educational activities.

Sponsoring organizations utilize the services of the Woodson Foundation frequently when designing Black women's programs, arts-in-education programs, performance series, and festivals.

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is a non profit tax-exempt organization which is supported in part by grants from AT&T, the Black United Fund of New Jersey, Geradine R. Dodge Foundation, Greater Paterson OIC, Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce, Highbeam Business Systems, Mutual Benefit Life, National Endowment for the Arts, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, New Jersey Bell, New Jersey Committee for the Humanities, Prudential Foundation, Public Service Electric and Gas, and the Victor A Foundation.

## ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY SPONSORS

The OnStage In New Jersey Performance Series is made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey State Council On The Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts/Expansion Arts Program.

Additional support provided by Adolph Coors Company, Essex County College, Montclair State College, Montclair YWCA, Newark Library, The Newark Museum, Newark Symphony Hall, Planned Parenthood of Middlesex County, Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School, the State Theatre, SeaLand Service, Inc., and the Walt Whitman Center.

## ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY GALA RECEPTION

Join the Woodson Foundation and friends at a post-performance Gala Reception on Sunday, May 6, 1990 following the Opera Ebony concert to celebrate the 1990 season of the OnStage In New Jersey performance series.

Patron tickets are available at \$50 each, which covers admission to the concert and post-performance Gala Reception. For reservations please call the Woodson Foundation at (201) 242-0500.

## PERFORMANCE SITES

### State Theatre

19 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
(201) 246-7469

### Mary B. Burch Theatre for the Performing Arts

Essex County College  
303 University Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 877-4423

### Memorial Auditorium

Montclair State College  
Valley Road & Normal Avenue  
Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043  
(201) 893-5112

### Studio Theatre

Newark Symphony Hall  
1020 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 643-8009

### Billy Johnson Auditorium

The Newark Museum  
49 Washington Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 596-6550

### Fine Arts Theatre

Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School  
413 12th Avenue  
Paterson, New Jersey 07614  
(201) 881-6361

### Centennial Hall

Newark Public Library  
5 Washington Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 733-7793

### Whitman Auditorium

Walt Whitman Center  
Second and Cooper Street  
Camden, New Jersey 08102  
(609) 757-7276

# ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY

The Woodson Foundation invites you to join our 1990 celebration of African-American culture. When you subscribe early to the OnStage In New Jersey performance series, you get tickets for top quality entertainment at affordably close

## ONSTAGE VENUES New, and Affordably close!

What's new in venues? Let OnStage in New Jersey introduce you to some of the State's most impressive theatres—many of which are brand new or recently renovated.

As you will see, the OnStage in New Jersey Performance Series reaches out to you, no matter where you are in New Jersey, with convenient locations that are accessible by public transportation.

That is why New Jersey entertainment lovers can say "New Jersey is the place to see the best!"

performances. This season's performances are designed to fascinate, thrill and enthrall audiences of all ages with a unique blend of new and established artists, performing works inspired by the African-American experience.

Since 1987, The Woodson Foundation has been committed to establishing New Jersey as the better place to see the best in entertainment through The OnStage series. The works of African-American artists are showcased like never before in a multi-disciplinary extravaganza of dance, music, theatre and the literary arts.

Newark Symphony Hall's **Studio Theatre** is located in the heart of downtown Newark, New Jersey. This newly renovated cultural complex, recipient of a \$45 million Capital Improvement Project, will be the site for "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens."

**Billy Johnson Auditorium**, of The Newark Museum, held its ribbon-cutting ceremonies in November 1989, to celebrate a renovation project that took some four years and \$20 million to complete. It is used for lectures, films and educational programs and will be the location for OnStage's Opera Ebony.

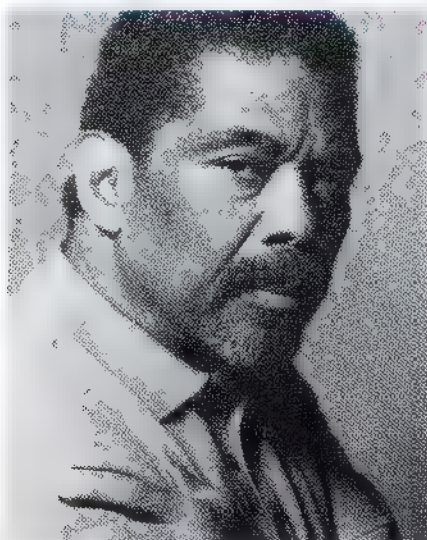
Essex County College's **Mary B. Burch Theatre**, complete with an extensive state-of-the-art light and sound system,

As the Foundation moves on to embrace the dawning of a new decade we reach out to audiences in New Jersey and surrounding areas, with the riveting social commentary of Sweet Honey in the Rock, the historic tale of "Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens," by The Carpetbag Theatre, the explosive dance and vocal performances in the Festival of African Culture, a cappella innovations by Take 6, the foot-stomping gospel of Newark-based singers, classical music by Opera Ebony and the unifying spirit of actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

will be the setting for the OnStage presentations of the Festival of African Culture: Gospel According to Newark and Sweet Honey in the Rock. In addition, Sweet Honey in the Rock will be performing at the **State Theatre**, a jewel of a concert hall, in New Brunswick, and **Memorial Auditorium** of Montclair State College, the State designated center for the fine and performing arts.

The Newark Library's **Centennial Hall**, fully restored to its turn-of-the-century elegance, and Camden's Walt Whitman Center will host performances by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. **Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School** in Paterson soon to celebrate its first graduating class this spring—we comes Take 6.

## Dedication to ALVIN AILEY 1931-1989



Alvin Ailey. His name is synonymous with any superlative that represents beauty, grace, creativity and determination.

Ailey, a master choreographer and creator of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, had a vision in 1958 during the birth of the modern day civil rights movement. Perhaps it was his dream for a more beautiful, peaceful existence among humankind that drove his thoughts to dance—a universal language.

"Dance is a natural outpouring of what you are as a person, your culture, background, your family, your heritage," Ailey once said.

Ailey merged the beauty of African and American dance as he created dance compositions that would leave his audiences and peers awestruck.

His travels took him to some 45 countries where his troupe has been seen by millions.

Ailey lived long enough to see dancers nurtured and inspired by him, blossom and become involved in every aspect of

dance and the arts. That was part of Ailey's dream which has become his legacy.

Judith Jamison, Joyce Trisler, Clive Thompson and Sylvia Waters, all former Ailey dancers, went on to lead dance companies of their own.

Here in New Jersey, Galman's Newark Dance Theatre is lead by Alfred Galman who studied under Ailey.

We dedicate our 1990 season to Alvin Ailey for his contributions to artistic expression through dance and music. Masterful compositions by such gifted composers as Duke Ellington, Keith Jarrett, Hugh Masekela, and the many unknown creators of traditional spirituals, are an integral part of the magic Ailey created through his choreographed works.

Though we have lost a true pioneer of the arts, our hearts will continue to be filled by the legacy he left behind, through the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

We will pay special tribute to Alvin Ailey during our Festival of African Culture.



# Is and Prairie Queens

PM \*April 8, 3 PM  
of The Newark Symphony Hall



dedly fought off starving wolves during  
ddy Mason walked to California from  
master's wagon, and later won her  
t a nursing home.  
of several stories told in Dark Cowgirls  
s, performed by members of The  
re, Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee.  
stic director, Linda Parris-Bailey, this  
tion highlights the struggles and  
of pioneer Black women of the Old  
om 1830 to 1890.  
Theatre, founded in 1970, is a unity-  
professional company dedicated to  
f new works by minority artists.

in cooperation with Newark Symphony Hall's  
Theater" festival.

## Ebony

4 PM  
Museum

The classics come alive with  
Opera Ebony. Everything from  
Mozart to Verdi is performed  
by this company of gifted classical  
composers, musicians, and opera  
singers.

Since its inception in November  
1973, Opera Ebony has welcomed  
talent representing the multi-cul-  
tural fabric of America. As a result,  
Opera Ebony continues to attract  
performers of virtually every  
ethnic group, including Asians  
and Hispanics.

To date, the company has  
presented "Aida," "Carmen,"  
"Madam Butterfly," "The Marriage  
of Figaro," "Faust," "Il Trovatore,"  
and many more.

The Newark Museum concert  
will feature arias from well-known  
classic African-American

# Festival of African Culture

April 28, 4 PM

Essex County College

This festival was created to celebrate the African influence in African-American culture. Africa holds the key to many of today's popular fashion and entertainment trends. Come experience the impact of African dance and music during an evening of rousing performances.

Delight in a full-scale African market that features the latest in crafts, jewelry, textiles, food and fashion.

To create a total mood, we encourage you to dress in traditional African attire. Don't miss this event, there's fun planned for the entire family!



## DINIZULU AND HIS AFRICAN DANCERS, DRUMMERS AND SINGERS

Nana Dinizulu sees a dramatic African renaissance among Americans of West African descent, and to encourage this, The Dinizulu Dance Company offers its audience an exciting repertoire including Fanga, the rousing Welcome Dance of Sierra Leone; Alunje, the expressive harvest dance; the Egungun, secret society dance of the Anagos (Yorubas) of Nigeria; the proud Adaye Dances of the ancestral cults of the powerful Ashanti kings; the highly energetic Gum Boot Dance of South Africa and a pageant of other brilliant choreographic spectacles.

You won't want to miss this invigorating program of African dances, songs, music and narrative that is educational, interesting and entertaining.



## THE THOKOZA SINGERS

Thokoza means happiness in Zulu and aptly describes the mood of audiences that have experienced this group's delivery of igom'ebusuku (Zulu: 'night music').

The Thokoza Singers originated in Durban, South Africa, in 1965. Since moving to New York City in 1979, they have electrified audiences with a captivating combination of igom'ebusuku vocal style, precise harmonies, and a diverse repertoire of older Zulu, Venda and Shangaan work. Their delivery of church-influenced songs, as well as original compositions, speak to the end apartheid in South Africa today.



# ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY

## *Sweet Honey In The Rock*

\*March 23, 8 PM  
State Theatre

March 24, 7 PM  
Essex County College

March 25, 4 PM  
Montclair State College



Imagine a warm brown, silky-smooth coating gliding slowly yet unceasingly over a rugged, time-worn stone, the result would be transforming.

Enter Sweet Honey In The Rock, a Washington, D.C.-based quintet of black women singers, take their audiences through the historic struggle of being African-American, sexual and political oppressions, and celebrations of black heroes and heroines.

The original group, founded in 1973 by Bernice Johnson Reagon, was part of the D.C. Black Repertory Theater Company.

Their songs are performed a cappella with occasional percussion. Each singer is an electrifying soloist who, when combined, produces a strong blend of sounds and rhythms.

The group has performed throughout the United States, Japan, Africa, Scotland and in South America.

\*Program to benefit Planned Parenthood of Middlesex County.

## *Dark Cowgirl*

\*April 6-7, 8 PM

Studio Theatre of



Mary single-handedly  
a blizzard once; Bill  
Texas behind her  
freedom and built

These are two of  
and Prairie Queens  
Carpetbag Theatre

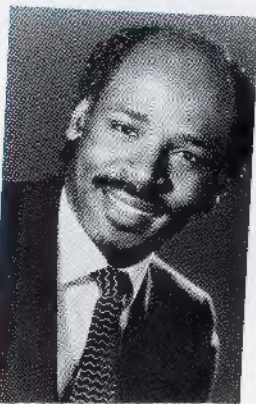
Written by artist  
theatrical production  
personal victories  
American West from

The Carpetbag  
based, non-profit  
the production of

\*Programs presented in  
"The Best of American

## *Gospel According To Newark*

April 29, 4 PM  
Essex County College



## *Opera E*

May 6, 4 PM  
The Newark





spirituals, and selected  
"Porgy and Bess."

## Take 6

May 22, 7 PM

arks Fine Arts High School



rd-winning sextet Take 6 emits the sounds of a full jazz  
pretations of mellow bass, screaming horn sections  
bottom.

oire consists of standard Hymns and Spirituals,  
avorites, and original compositions by members of the  
delivered with a blend of vocal jazz, traditional Black  
pinch of street-corner doo-wop.

980 by four freshmen students at Oakwood College, a  
orthern Alabama. Time and several personnel changes  
to its current roster, which includes (l-r) Alvin "Vinnie"  
III, Mervyn Warren, Cedric Dent, Mark Kibble and



## THE SPIRIT ENSEMBLE

The Spirit Ensemble's flexibility is found not only in their performance capabilities—they appear in clubs, fully staged concerts, dance parties, and educational conferences—but also in their many musical styles. The group blends influences from Haiti, Brazil, and early Black American percussion.

Such traditional instruments as the Mbira, the shekere, and hand drums are used with expertise. Each member of The Spirit Ensemble possesses a wealth of knowledge about the music of Africa and the African diaspora. Through their spirits, these eight masterful performers create a bright polyphonic sound, beautiful in melody, complex in rhythm. Their music will move you to dance and sing.



NEW JERSEY  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON THE  
ARTS

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Make payable to: The Woodson Foundation  
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Signature as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_ Please mail to: OnStage in New Jersey Box Office  
Thank you. Memorial Auditorium  
Montclair State College  
Valley Road and Normal Avenue  
Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043

### ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY Ticket Order Form

Fill in the code letters for the performances that you select to attend in the boxes below.

Fill in the Number of Orders Below

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\$55



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Total dollar amount of ticket order .....\$



Newark, New Jersey has long been recognized as a bedrock of gospel music. For many individuals and choirs, gospel has served as a springboard to world-wide notoriety, through Broadway plays, recording contracts and international tours.

The Gospel According To Newark concert will showcase the wealth of our area's best talent including the exciting Stephens Singers, St. Paul Inspirational Choir, Donald Malloy, and many others. Be prepared for a hand-clapping, foot-stomping, good time. Bring your stepping shoes!

## Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee

May 24, 7 PM

The Newark Library



May 25, 8 PM

Walt Whitman Center

One ordinarily doesn't say Ossie Davis without saying Ruby Dee within the same affectionate breath. This husband and wife team, lauded for their warm, sensitive, and humorous performances of theater and literary classics, epitomize the phrase "unity makes strength."

Together they have worked in American theater, film, television and radio.

Davis studied under Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke, a black Rhodes Scholar and Sterling A. Brown, a distinguished poet, as a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his numerous performances Davis has directed several well-known motion pictures including "Cotton Comes to Harlem," and "Black Girl."

For Ruby Dee, television has been her biggest success, having appeared in films and series, including the history-making "Roots: The Next Generations."

In 1989, both appeared in filmmaker Spike Lee's movie "Do The Right Thing."



In concert, Grammy award band with their vocal interplay and a complete percussion group.

The Take 6 music repertoire is contemporary christian faith quartet gospel and just a few.

Take 6 was formed in 1990 at a small Christian school in New York. They have brought the group to Chea, Claude V. McKnight and David Thomas.

## Schedule of Performances

Code	Artist	Date	Day	Time	Location	Single Ticket Price
A	Sweet Honey In The Rock	March 23	Friday	8pm	State Theatre	\$20
B	Sweet Honey In The Rock	March 24	Saturday	7pm	Essex County College	\$20
C	Sweet Honey In The Rock	March 25	Sunday	4pm	Montclair State College	\$16
D	Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens	April 6	Friday	8pm	Studio Theatre of NSH	\$15
E	Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens	April 7	Saturday	8pm	Studio Theatre of NSH	\$15
F	Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens	April 8	Sunday	3pm	Studio Theatre of NSH	\$15
G	Festival of African Culture	April 28	Saturday	4pm	Essex County College	\$12
H	Gospel According to Newark	April 29	Sunday	4pm	Essex County College	\$12
I	Opera Ebony	May 6	Sunday	4pm	The Newark Museum	\$15
J	Take 6	May 22	Tuesday	7pm	Rosa Parks Fine Arts HS	\$15
K	Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee	May 24	Thursday	7pm	The Newark Library	Free
L	Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee	May 25	Friday	8pm	Walt Whitman Center	Free

Single tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at (201) 596-1234